

Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board



News-At-A-Glance

April 1999

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This publication is prepared by the staff of the Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board. Its content is extracted from information received in the FEB Office and gleaned from public information sources. Please forward your agency newsletter or "news items" to the FEB Office for inclusion in future FEB News-at-a-Glance editions.

Federal Volunteer Corps (FVC) Kickoff

To paraphrase an old song: though the weather outside was frightful, the FVC Kickoff was delightful! Neither a brief drizzle, nor cold winds deterred almost 500 participants from having fun and fulfilling worth-while goals on April 8, 1999, at the Roybal Plaza in downtown Los Angeles.

Right before National Volunteer Week, this event launched a new organization, inspired by President Clinton's April 1998 directive, sponsored by your FEB, and composed of Federal employees from the 5-county Greater Los Angeles area, who volunteer in the community or through their agencies. To reward our volunteers, almost 300 free FVC T-shirts were distributed to two groups:

- ◆ 100 new volunteers who signed up with about 25 volunteer organizations at the kickoff, thereby expanding local Federal volunteerism
- ◆ almost 200 current volunteers who completed the FVC survey to increase available information on Federal community service.

The theme, "Volunteering is easy and fun!" was illustrated with four hours of continuous entertainment by volunteers ranging from high school song and dance groups to current and retired Federal musicians. A Marine Color Guard, remarks by **Stewart Liff**, *Chair of the FEB and Regional Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs*, and **Louise Oliver**, *Chair of the Retired Federal Leadership Council*, opened the event, at which free refreshments and five door prizes were offered. *FEB Executive Director*, **Kathrene Hansen**, excelled as Mistress of Ceremonies. Red, white and blue balloon kites, bouquets, and an arch attracted passersby who investigated volunteer opportunities. A Guide Dog of America puppy-in-training and a Wildlife Waystation



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rescued coati, named Yuma, helped recruit new volunteers. FVC Coordinator, Andrea Winkler, stated, "Thanks to excellent kickoff attendance, the FVC has begun strongly with almost 400 members from about 30 Federal offices."

This year's theme is, "Public Employees: Working for America." Are

Public Service Recognition Week
May 3 - 9, 1999

you looking for ways to help publicize your accomplishments and celebrate this event? Check the Public Employees Roundtable website: <http://www.theroundtable.org> for ideas and materials.

Consider reaching out to the community, to the schools, and to the media and building morale by recognizing your employees and saying thank you. The FEB will celebrate on May 5, starting at 8:30 A.M. at the Long Beach Hilton with the **Distinguished Public Service Awards**, to honor exceptional local Federal employees. In considering Federal employee achievements, DID YOU KNOW: an EPA scientist's research was behind the 1980's reduction by over 90% of allowable gasoline lead levels? DID YOU KNOW: NASA developed DIGITAL-IMAGING, resulting in the CAT scan, MRI, & computer-aided design & manufacturing?

"It is a distinct pleasure to extend special greetings to the over 20 million members of the Public Service preparing to celebrate Public Service Recognition Week... Your contributions to governance... improve the quality of American life and safeguard the principles of freedom and democracy held so dear by the people of this Nation... and help all of us keep the American dream alive." Colin L. Powell

VA: Children Are Our Future

When *The Department of Veterans' Affairs, Los Angeles Regional Office, Assistant Director, Dennis Kuewa*, opened some office mail 12 months ago, little did he realize that serendipity would lead to a gratifying community service event last Veterans' Day. Richland Intermediate School students in Shafter, CA had written letters to veterans, in care of the VA, about what they believe a veteran is, e.g., a hero who sacrifices, sometimes his or her life, to preserve the freedom the children enjoy or a close relative they felt honored to have in the family.

Observing the impact of the letters on veterans who read them, Dennis and his staff were inspired to display the letters for visiting veterans and at homeless veterans' outreach locations and to create a special program for the children. Shafter parents and teachers held fund-raisers to finance the bus trip for 45 third-grade pupils, teachers and parents. The VIP tour included meeting VA Regional Office employees, who described how they serve veterans; being treated to lunch; and seeing displays, such as a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.



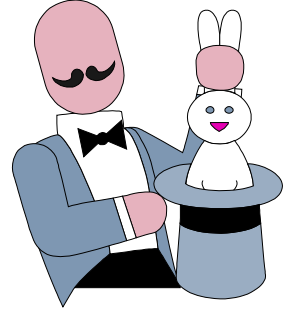
Dennis shared these thoughts about the experience, "I noticed how warm and touched the veterans felt when they read the children's letters on display. Some homeless veterans were in tears when they read the letters. I also recall how special our employees felt because it made them feel they were doing something important for our veteran customers. My last thought is how special the students felt when we brought them to the office and expressed our appreciation to them."

The VA Regional Office is considering hosting another event for the Richland students to tour the VA Hospital to cheer the patients and to learn more about VA services. The FEB encourages all agencies to develop programs for school children, one of the best investments in the future.



Profile: IRS MAGIC

When you hear IRS MAGIC, do you think of a disappearing act for your tax liability? Sorry, but that is not in the cards.



On April 17, 1999, Red Cross volunteers, honored at a Monrovia awards banquet, were entertained by *IRS Appeals Office Automation Clerk, David Martinez*, who happens to be a magician and member of the prestigious Magic Castle. This event illustrates the diverse ways Federal employees are involved in community service. Learning of Red Cross volunteer contributions has also inspired David to sign up as a volunteer. In addition to community service, David illustrates the unique talents of Federal employees living in the entertainment capital of the world. David's interest in magic started at age 9 with a birthday gift from his aunt of a magic set. From magic tricks performed at grammar school, David progressed to professional status about nine years ago, shortly after he began part-time work at the IRS, while in school. David specializes in close-up magic, e.g. silk sponge ball and card tricks, at gatherings like corporate and celebrity parties for Arnold Schwarzenegger, Kirstie Alley, Julia Roberts, Lisa Marie Presley, and Michael Jackson (two-year-old son's recent birthday party at Neverland) and on AMTRAK four-day runs between Los Angeles and Seattle. When not at the IRS, David works at Hollywood Magic and invents new magic tricks, some of which are featured in the Family Magic Stores. David performs magic for the fun and excitement of his "gigs." Although he is a paid professional, David shared that his motivation "is not for the money." David considers the IRS his career and aspires to promotion as a Computer Assistant in the future.

Your Inquiring Reporter: What does national volunteer week (April 18 - 24) mean to you?

Your reporter thanks the following volunteers for sharing their answers at the inspiring "VOLUNTEERS LIGHT THE WAY," fourth annual volunteers academy awards at the *Federal Correctional Institution, Terminal Island* on April 21, 1999:



Lee Howell, *Drug Treatment Specialist & Winner of the Best Supporting Staff Volunteer Award*: "Volunteering comes from the heart. To honor those who reflect the light in their heart into the dark corners of the world is the least we can do."

Steve Jaso, *Correctional Counselor*: "National Volunteer Week is a tribute to people who give freely of their own time to help others. The real secret though is that the time they give also helps the volunteer as much as it helps the people they serve."

Patrick Adkins, *community volunteer* who gave the "RAP" tribute to volunteers: "The heartbeat of a volunteer is to sacrifice for the good of others."

Dan Egeonuigwe, *Correctional Counselor*: "Helping others and feeling the joy that I was able to do so is what it means to me."

Sherry Rollman, *Federal Executive Board Assistant Director*: "It is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of volunteers within the community."

Chuck Holt, *Kairos Prison Ministry community volunteer*: "It is a good way to acknowledge volunteers in the Federal Prison System."

Ronald Johnson, *Keynote Speaker*: "What volunteers accomplish cannot be done through paid work. It can only be done through hearts and spirits of people."

Over 100 people, mainly community volunteers, attended the entertaining awards banquet which honored 228 regular and 600 occasional volunteers, who helped over 1000 inmates in the medium-security facility over the last year. This model volunteer program is led by *Warden, Dick Clark*, and *Associate Warden, Beverly Pierce*, and administered by the very dedicated **Kay Coulter**, *Coordinator*.



Farewell & Welcome

Colonel Stu Johnson retires April 29 as *Commander of Defense Contract Management (DCM) District West*. Good luck to **Colonel Johnson**! Welcome to his successor, **Colonel Fred Mason**, *Commander at DCMC Santa Ana*.



Best wishes to **Timothy Wiesnet**, who moved from *Regional Director, L.A. Passport Agency*, to *Director of the new Passport Office in Columbia, SC* on April 8.



April 22 marked the retirement dinner of **Timothy McNally**, *FBI Assistant Director in Charge of the L.A. Office*. His next post is corporate security chief at the Hong Kong Jockey Club, which operates the island's only two race tracks and lottery, donating all profits to local charities.



Goodwill Industries of Southern CA welcomed former Board member **Louise Oliver** (*past FEB Chair and Co-Chair, Retired Federal Leadership Council*), as *Director of Goodwill's Industrial Services Department*, effective March 22.



To **VA Medical Center Long Beach**, renowned in spinal cord injury treatment, for winning up to \$1.3 million over five years for ulcer wound healing research.

On the **HUD** - City of L.A. partnership with \$41.4 million in **HUD** grants & loan guarantees for urban redevelopment in N. Hollywood & S. L.A.

To **Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area** on its new Visitor Center dedicated 2/13/99!

On the partnership of the **U.S. Geological Survey** with state, utility, and academic partners for earthquake monitoring, emergency response, & research.

To L.A. County for its Materials Exchange, LACoMAX, <http://dpw.co.la.ca.us/epd/lacomax> or 888 CLEAN LA, to facilitate recycling usable items by helping donors connect with individual, school, non-profit or small business donees.

To **SSA** on receiving the highest rating and only "A" from the Government Performance Project of the Maxwell School at Syracuse University!

To **Jennifer Tyler, Fort Irwin (Mojave Desert) Army First Lieutenant**, on *Cosmopolitan Magazine's* Fun Fearless Female Award for her exploits in war games & electronic attacks on enemy communications, and progress up management ranks.

To **Army Corps of Engineers'** for its Homeowners Assistance Program to help military and civilian DOD Feds hurt by base closures or realignments, e.g., Long Beach & El Toro.

To **SBA** on a very successful Minority Enterprise Development Week Recognition Breakfast with over 1,000 participants

Volunteer Round-Up

The Long Beach Downtown YMCA cares for over 200 children after school daily. Americorps is involved in this effort and the Coast Guard partnered with a corporation and local fire department to donate 200 toys to the children at Christmas.

Volunteer Barbara Davenport was honored for 4,500 hours contributed over 10 years to the Red Cross at the *Long Beach Veterans Affairs Medical Center*. "I feel blessed to have health and am able to give back to those who need someone there, and let them know they are not forgotten."

Superintendent Art Eck of the *Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area*, attributes his organization's success on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary, to many factors, including a volunteer program of over 50,000 hours annually.

Nationally, the U.S. Forest Service relies on nearly 95,000 volunteers working on trail construction and maintenance, fish and wildlife management, research projects and visitor programs in the national forests. The appraised value of these donated services annually is \$33.8 million.

Since 1989, the 77,000 **U.S. Interior department** volunteers have exceeded the paid employees, around 72,000. Thanks to volunteers, services provided are doubled throughout the nation.

The **national oceanic and atmospheric administration** has worked for over a century with volunteers in the cooperative weather station program. Currently over a million hours are contributed yearly by 10,000 volunteer weather observers recording weather daily across the country.

Over 6,000 Peace Corps volunteers serve each year in 94 countries.